

Stenographic Transcript  
Before the

COMMITTEE ON  
ARMED SERVICES

**UNITED STATES SENATE**

TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY ON THE CURRENT READINESS OF  
THE JOINT FORCE

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Washington, D.C.

ALDERSON COURT REPORTING  
1029 VERMONT AVE, NW  
10TH FLOOR  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005  
(202) 289-2260

1 TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY ON THE CURRENT READINESS OF  
2 THE JOINT FORCE

3  
4 Wednesday, March 4, 2026

5  
6 U.S. Senate  
7 Subcommittee on Readiness and  
8 Management Support  
9 Committee on Armed Services  
10 Washington, D.C.

11  
12 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:30 p.m. in  
13 Room SH-216, Hart Senate Office Building, Hon. Dan Sullivan,  
14 chairman of the subcommittee, presiding.

15 Committee Members Present: Senators Sullivan  
16 [presiding], Scott, Hirono, and Warren.

17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

1           OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. DAN SULLIVAN, U.S. SENATOR  
2 FROM ALASKA

3           Senator Sullivan: The hearing will come to order.

4           I want to thank our very distinguished witnesses for  
5 this Readiness Subcommittee to receive testimony on the  
6 current readiness of the United States Armed Forces. This  
7 is certainly one of the most important topics we address  
8 each year. In many ways, it sets the foundation for every  
9 other discussion we have as it relates to defense in the  
10 military. It also helps this committee prepare for the  
11 markup of the National Defense Authorization Act, which we  
12 do each year. This year has shown us that lethality,  
13 sustainment, and readiness are more important than ever.  
14 Without these factors, we lose deterrence. Ensuring  
15 readiness, we can take the fight to the enemy at any time  
16 and place of our choosing.

17           First, I want to acknowledge with gratitude the six  
18 fallen heroes that have been lost in action during Operation  
19 Epic Fury. I know that our witnesses feel the same. We  
20 want to appreciate their sacrifice and pray for their  
21 families. Second, I want to thank our witnesses for their  
22 willingness to be here today. When you look across the dais  
23 here, there's literally decades and decades of exceptional  
24 service from all of you gentlemen, and ladies, and your  
25 families. So, I want to thank you for that. I think I can

1 speak for all my colleagues. We hold our deployed members  
2 under your leadership and our thoughts right now. They are  
3 protecting our Nation day in and day out, not just in the  
4 Middle East, but all over the world.

5 So, I want to talk about the current conflict briefly.  
6 I'm sure there'll be questions on that. Iran has been a  
7 catalyst for terrorism, mayhem, and violence across the  
8 Middle East and the world for decades. The terrorist  
9 leaders of Iran have, in essence, been at war with the  
10 United States since the ayatollahs took over Iran in 1979.  
11 They have killed and maimed thousands of American service  
12 members over the years. The list is long; the Beirut Marine  
13 Barracks, Khobar Towers, the sophisticated roadside bombs in  
14 Iraq and Afghanistan literally cost the lives of thousands  
15 of American service members, and killed, certainly just with  
16 the IEDs over 600.

17 The regime has recently attempted to assassinate  
18 President Trump when he was running for President in 2024,  
19 and we know that they've attempted to assassinate former  
20 Secretary Pompeo and former national security adviser, John  
21 Bolton. That's why it's been a bipartisan goal of every  
22 President since the Iranian Revolution to ensure that the  
23 largest state sponsor of terrorism doesn't have nuclear  
24 weapons or ballistic missiles. The world is not safe with  
25 an Iran with relentless nuclear and terrorist ambitions, and



1 an expanded ballistic missile inventory.

2 This current conflict raises and reminds us of a number  
3 of critical challenges. At front and center is our  
4 munitions and the defense industrial base. The conflicts we  
5 are observing, not just in Iran, but in Ukraine as well,  
6 have underscored the importance of sustained production  
7 capacity in the United States. At the briefing we received  
8 yesterday from the Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense,  
9 Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, they declared undeniably that  
10 we have sufficient current stocks to carry on and win  
11 decisively in Operation Epic Fury. I think that's an  
12 important message for everybody around the world to make  
13 sure, other adversaries of ours don't see this as a moment  
14 where they can take action in other parts of the world.

15 But we must ensure that our stockpiles, surge capacity,  
16 and organic industrial base are sufficient to support a  
17 prolonged high end fighting in other theaters for future  
18 conflicts, if they should arise. We should also not lose  
19 sight that we are meeting at a time when the global threat  
20 environment is as complex and dangerous as it has been in  
21 decades.

22 Strategic competition with China continues to  
23 intensify. By investing heavily in capabilities designed to  
24 challenge our ability to project power and sustain  
25 operations not just in the Indo-Pacific, but across the



1 globe, Russia's war in Ukraine has reshaped the security  
2 landscape in Europe and in the homeland, particularly in my  
3 state. We see increased aggression from Russia and China in  
4 the Arctic and the North Pacific.

5 This is a chart I put out on a number of times. We had  
6 a field hearing just last weekend in Anchorage with the  
7 Commerce Committee, where I chair the subcommittee in charge  
8 of the Coast Guard, and I displayed this chart. These are  
9 the recent ADIZ incursions by the Russian Air Force,  
10 strategic bombers, Chinese Air Force, Chinese and Russian  
11 Navy. The unprecedented element of this chart are the green  
12 ones. Those are joint Russian Chinese operations into our  
13 ADIZ, into our EEZ, strategic bomber task forces, joint  
14 naval task forces.

15 At the hearing last week, a very distinguished retired  
16 four-star general, Joe Ralston, former NATO commander, said  
17 there's no way that the Chinese and Russians would be doing  
18 joint Ops into America's Arctic, and North American ADIZ,  
19 and waters without full approval of Xi Jinping and Putin.  
20 So, these are aggressive actions that we must keep in mind.

21 Indeed, Russia continues to expand and modernize its  
22 Arctic military footprint, deep water ports, airfields,  
23 radar systems, forward operating bases. The Russians have  
24 over 54 icebreakers, many of which are nuclear-powered and  
25 weaponized. China, despite having no Arctic territory,



1 calls itself a near-Arctic state, whatever that means, and  
2 is rapidly expanding its polar capabilities.

3 Over the past 2 years, we've seen a dramatic increase  
4 in these incursions into our air and waters in the United  
5 States, in Alaska. As a matter of fact, just last 2 weeks  
6 ago, we had another Russian strategic bomber task force into  
7 our ADIZ, and the United States military did an exceptional  
8 job, as they always do, detecting and intercepting these  
9 Russian Bear Bombers.

10 We should be clear that when we talk about readiness,  
11 we also need to talk about homeland readiness right now.  
12 Secretary Rubio, in our briefing yesterday, said we should  
13 assume Iran and its proxies are planning terrorist actions  
14 around the world, including in our homeland. Which is why I  
15 think, particularly given the current circumstances in terms  
16 of our homeland defense, we need to resource the Department  
17 of Homeland Security to prevent any kind of homeland attack  
18 from Iran or anyone else.

19 Every day DHS is not funded is another day. U.S.  
20 citizens are vulnerable. I know the White House is working  
21 closely and has put forward offers with my Democratic  
22 colleagues. I certainly hope that we are not going to  
23 defund, not we, the Senate Democrats, defund Homeland  
24 Security. We need to fund Homeland Security now. This is a  
25 national security issue, a readiness issue that we can fix



1 today, and it needs to happen.

2 But we need to do more to prepare and ensure readiness.  
3 I'm going to be asking the panelists the issues relating to  
4 personnel and recruiting. We have gone through a crisis.  
5 We've come out of that crisis. But I think it's important  
6 to have lessons learned. What just happened over the last  
7 few years? Second, we have aging platforms and maintenance  
8 challenges in all our services. We need to be able to get  
9 in front of those. Third, the issue of sustainment, and  
10 contested logistics, and force projection capabilities is  
11 another challenge and a new reality for all of our services  
12 as well.

13 To our witnesses, I look forward to your candid  
14 assessment of where readiness stands today, not just in  
15 terms of reported metrics, but in real-world capabilities.  
16 Where are the gaps, where are the risks, and what actions  
17 are required in the near-term to ensure that the United  
18 States military remains fully prepared to deter, and, if  
19 necessary, defeat our adversaries.

20 So, again, I want to thank the witnesses for being here  
21 today. We look forward to your testimony. And I now want  
22 to turn the comments over to my ranking member, Senator  
23 Hirono.

24

25



1 STATEMENT OF HON. MAZIE HIRONO, U.S. SENATOR FROM  
2 HAWAII

3 Senator Hirono: Thank you very much, gentlemen. Thank  
4 you very much for your dedicated service to our Nation, and  
5 especially, in these turbulent times. I thank the service  
6 members in each of your respective branches. Ms. Maurer, I  
7 look forward to having you here with us every year. Thank  
8 you for the constant and effective work by you and your team  
9 at GAO.

10 I begin by acknowledging the tragic loss of multiple  
11 U.S. service members' lives in the Middle East. Our  
12 thoughts are with them, their families, their loved ones,  
13 along with the thousands of other Americans who are serving  
14 in harm's way, even as we speak. We must also acknowledge  
15 how we got here. President Trump launched airstrikes  
16 without so much as consulting with Congress.

17 What's worse, we are given multiple explanations for  
18 why we are at war with Iran; from getting ahead of an  
19 imminent Iran strike to eliminating their nuclear capability  
20 to effecting regime change. They can't get their story  
21 straight. As Leader Schumer said, when the rationale for  
22 war keeps shifting, the strategy is missing. Moreover, just  
23 this morning, Secretary Hegseth said we are just getting  
24 started.

25 This lack of strategy directly increases the risk to



1 our service members while negatively impacting military  
2 readiness, and readiness is a fleeting commodity in the  
3 military. Even with well-executed training cycles, it must  
4 be managed ruthlessly to balance operational needs with  
5 force sustainment.

6 Our witnesses have shown that a well-trained, well-led  
7 military can execute a wide range of tasks effectively. It  
8 is incumbent upon you-all to lay out, without equivocation,  
9 your services' current state of readiness, and the impact to  
10 its readiness of missions it is tasked to perform. This is  
11 particularly important when planned events like ship  
12 maintenance cycles, combined training exercises, and support  
13 to combatant command exercises are disrupted.

14 It is also important to clearly articulate the cost and  
15 time to replace what stocks when they are employed.  
16 Standards are also a critical component of training, and  
17 this administration has employed the term "standards" with  
18 great vigor. No one is opposed to well-defined, task-based  
19 standards. Personally, I have confidence that the uniformed  
20 leadership of the military invests itself consistently over  
21 time to set and continuously review its training standards.

22 However, the Secretary of Defense appears to be  
23 undertaking a personal attack on women in the military, more  
24 specifically, women in close combat formations. By  
25 questioning standards, he is questioning your ability to



1 man, train, and equip a ready force. He is questioning  
2 whether current physical fitness standards and unit  
3 effectiveness and cohesion are making your services less  
4 ready. I'm very interested in your assessment in these  
5 areas.

6 Just yesterday, we heard from the Department of Defense  
7 about their National Defense Strategy. And yes, the number  
8 one stated priority was defense of the homeland, a priority  
9 that has significant overlap with the Department of Homeland  
10 Security. In that regard, the DOD has handed over \$2  
11 billion to DHS in the last year alone for missions on the  
12 southern border. Not only does this drain military  
13 readiness and resources, it also depletes morale and diverts  
14 units from training and executing the full range of their  
15 core missions. Yet, we are often told there are no adverse  
16 readiness impacts from deploying to the border. However,  
17 these deployments have no end in sight. You can't have it  
18 both ways.

19 In reality, readiness challenges will only be further  
20 exacerbated by the war in Iran. We have already lost three  
21 aircraft to what sounds like a friendly fire incident in  
22 Kuwait to the tune of a loss of almost \$1 billion in the  
23 three aircraft, and the Joint Forces is burning through  
24 costly inventories of precision-guided munitions when they  
25 are already in short supply. Moreover, these munitions take

1 a long time to replenish and risk being unavailable for the  
2 unforeseen contingencies elsewhere, particularly in the  
3 Indo-Pacific, where we face a peer adversary, just as the  
4 chairman has indicated in his chart.

5 To the witnesses on today's panel, I recognize you are  
6 in a precarious position. Four-star generals have been  
7 fired without cause over the last year, and we have  
8 repeatedly seen this administration blur lines using the  
9 military in ways we haven't seen before, in other words,  
10 politicizing the military.

11 While only one of you is a repeat witness from this  
12 hearing a year ago, each of you have earned the four stars  
13 on your shoulders. We rely on your experience, as do the  
14 service members you lead, to candidly speak truth to power  
15 and give us your best military advice. Especially in these  
16 unprecedented times, decisions have consequences, and short-  
17 sighted decisions can have dangerous long-term consequences.

18 Launching another war in the Middle East, improperly  
19 using the military for DHS operations on a non-reimbursable  
20 basis. These misguided policy decisions have real, tangible  
21 costs on readiness and our ability to deter major  
22 adversaries like China and Russia.

23 To my colleagues, we can and must do something to  
24 reassert our constitutional authority. It is Congress that  
25 declares war, not the President. And as far as I'm



1 concerned, it begins by voting for Senator Kaine's War  
2 Powers Resolution. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 Senator Sullivan: Thank you, Senator Hirono. And now,  
4 I'm going to ask each of our witnesses for 5 minutes of  
5 testimony. You can submit a longer written testimony for  
6 the record, and we'll begin from left to right here. So,  
7 the Vice Chief of the Army, General LaNeve, the floor is  
8 yours.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25



1 STATEMENT OF GENERAL CHRISTOPHER C. LANEVE, USA, VICE  
2 CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY

3 General LaNeve: Chairman Sullivan, Ranking Member,  
4 thank you for the opportunity to appear before the  
5 subcommittee today. We're grateful for your engagement on  
6 issues that shape the lives of our soldiers and their  
7 families. Every decision I make as vice chief begins and  
8 ends with one question: Does this make our soldiers more  
9 lethal and ready to fight and win when called upon?

10 Today, over 108,000 soldiers are deployed or forward-  
11 postured across 160 countries, securing our interests in the  
12 Western Hemisphere, deterring aggression in the Indo-  
13 Pacific, and responding to threats worldwide. In the Middle  
14 East, our soldiers are operating in a complex and dangerous  
15 environment amid active conflict with Iran and its proxies.  
16 They're defending U.S. forces and partners, intercepting  
17 missiles and drones, and protecting critical infrastructure.

18 Our sustainment formations are moving fuel, munitions,  
19 and medical support across the theater, while our command  
20 posts are integrating joint fires and intelligence to ensure  
21 rapid response to evolving threats. Brave Americans have  
22 been killed and wounded in the line of duty. Their losses  
23 felt across our formations and in communities across this  
24 Nation. To their families, we extend our deepest  
25 condolences and our enduring support.

1           Operations overseas are sustained by the command  
2 structure and ready forces we maintain at home. We  
3 consolidated Army north and south in the Western Hemisphere  
4 Command to create a single unified headquarters responsible  
5 for homeland defense, while retaining the capacity to  
6 generate and deploy forces globally in response to crisis.

7           In the Indo-Pacific, the Army maintains 91,000 troops,  
8 and committed \$1.3 billion to the Pacific Deterrence  
9 Initiative. We're decisively modernizing our full spectrum  
10 of capabilities to counter any pacing threat, and command in  
11 Korea, showed me that years of combined training and shared  
12 risk with regional partners creates relationships that  
13 cannot be forged in crisis. These enduring bonds, built  
14 through sustained commitment, underpin our operations in the  
15 region and globally.

16           We're building readiness for the future fight at our  
17 combined training centers, and having had the opportunity to  
18 command of the Operations Group at the Joint Readiness  
19 Training Center, I know the value of our CTCs. It's where  
20 we train our soldiers to fight against any adversary in the  
21 mud, to solve complex problems and to test our latest  
22 systems.

23           But we cannot build modern kit while sustaining aging  
24 systems that consume time and manpower. Divesting legacy  
25 platforms reduces maintenance and demand that falls hardest



1 on our junior soldiers and returns critical time to  
2 training. This is why we've restructured our acquisition  
3 processes to reduce the distance between soldier's field  
4 experience and program decisions from years to months.

5 We're accelerating development and fielding critical  
6 systems like the next-generation command and control. It's  
7 how we extend our operational reach, connecting sensors,  
8 shooters, and commanders during large scale combat  
9 operations. And we've selected the 4th and the 25th  
10 Infantry Divisions to test these systems now, while they  
11 still deter in the Pacific.

12 We're developing the XM30 Infantry Fighting Vehicle,  
13 unveiled the M1E3 Abrams prototype years ahead of schedule,  
14 and fielded the AMPV to replace the M113, which entered  
15 service in 1960, 7 years before I was born. In Army  
16 aviation, were on track to deliver a prototype of the MV-75  
17 Future Long Range Assault Aircraft by fiscal year 2027,  
18 advancing the speed, range, and survivability required for  
19 future operations.

20 The next-generation equipment we're fielding is only as  
21 good as the industrial base that produces and sustains it.  
22 We continue to modernize the OIB through our 15-year plan,  
23 and we're expanding industry partnership through enhanced  
24 use leases and advanced manufacturing. But after 36 years,  
25 I've never seen a unit readiness determined by a depot or

1 its equipment alone. What I have seen repeatedly is how we  
2 treat our soldiers shapes, whether we retain the experienced  
3 ones, and whether the force we're building reflects the  
4 standards we claim to uphold. That standard includes \$3  
5 billion in infrastructure investments throughout 2026.

6 We're working to improve nutrition for our soldiers.  
7 We're rolling out campus-style dining facilities across five  
8 installations, and more to come. We've accelerated our  
9 holistic health and fitness programs to all active Guard and  
10 Reserve units. And these investments are having an impact.  
11 It shows in our recruiting numbers. Our numbers are up and  
12 continue to surpass last year's target.

13 Thank you for your continued support as we sustain the  
14 best army the world has ever seen. That will not change,  
15 and This We'll Defend. Thank you.

16 [The prepared statement of General LaNeve follows:]

17 [SUBCOMMITTEE INSERT]

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25



1           Senator Sullivan: Thank you, General. Next witness is  
2 the Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Kilby. Admiral.

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25



1           STATEMENT OF ADMIRAL JAMES W. KILBY, USN, VICE CHIEF  
2 OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

3           Admiral Kilby: Chairman Sullivan, Ranking Member,  
4 Subcommittee members, thank you for the opportunity to  
5 testify on the readiness of the United States Navy. Your  
6 oversight and authorization of funding ensure the Navy is  
7 ready when the Nation calls. That readiness was put to a  
8 test this past year, as the Navy conducted combat operations  
9 and supported the Joint Force in achieving national  
10 objectives.

11           In Operations Rough Rider and Midnight Hammer, the Navy  
12 conducted strikes against our adversaries and defended our  
13 allies in the Middle East. In the Atlantic, the Navy played  
14 a key role in Operation Absolute Resolve. In the Pacific,  
15 our sailors operate every day, deterring China and building  
16 partnerships. The Navy continues to maintain unbroken  
17 strategic deterrence with our ballistic missile submarines.  
18 As we speak, the Navy, both afloat and ashore, is supporting  
19 Operation Epic Fury. Last night in the Indian Ocean, a U.S.  
20 fast attack submarine sank an Iranian combatant.

21           Around the globe, we are ready to defend the homeland,  
22 deter threats, and if called upon, to fight and win. To  
23 ensure our sailors and platforms continue to meet the  
24 demands of today's rapidly evolving threats, we are  
25 thinking, acting, and operating differently, and this starts

1 with our Navy's primary weapon system; our sailors.

2 In fiscal year 2025, we set the goal to enlist 40,600  
3 new sailors. We exceeded that goal and shipped 44,096  
4 sailors to Recruit Training Command. I'm confident we will  
5 meet our 2026 goal of recruiting 45,000 sailors. To improve  
6 retention, we made personnel policy changes that led to  
7 thousands of sailors who were considering separation to  
8 continue their service. These efforts resulted in reduced  
9 gaps at sea from 23,000 in October 2025 to 18,000 last  
10 month, with a goal of 13,000 at the end of the fiscal year.

11 We are focused on improving sailors' quality of service  
12 through a new initiative. We are providing permanent shore-  
13 based housing so that no sailor is required to live aboard a  
14 ship. As of last month, approximately 4,500 sailors have  
15 transitioned from living afloat to residing ashore. Last  
16 year, we reduced our unmet need of child care from 22,000 --  
17 sorry, 2,200 to 1,500. Our fitness facilities are now open  
18 24/7 and we, like the Army, are expanding our meal  
19 selections and healthy options in our galley.

20 We are improving platform readiness by reducing  
21 maintenance delays, investing in shipyard infrastructure  
22 optimization program, and developing our civilian workforce.  
23 We are leveraging advanced technologies such as condition-  
24 based maintenance and advanced additive manufacturing. The  
25 Navy continues to drive towards our goal of 80 percent



1 combat surge-ready ships, aircraft, and submarines with  
2 urgency and accountability. However, I remain concerned  
3 with the material condition of our amphibious ships, and I  
4 am working closely with the ACMC to improve here.

5 To meet the high-end demand of forward operations, the  
6 Navy is changing how we build, equip, and sustain our fleet.  
7 The Golden Fleet Initiative is our plan to deliver the best  
8 and most capable platforms to revitalize our maritime  
9 industrial base and to change how we acquire ships. Your  
10 continued support of our Navy is vital in this initiative's  
11 success, in particular, expanded multi-year procurement,  
12 guaranteed purchase commitments, and predictable funding  
13 streams to enable us to achieve speed and scale. These  
14 legislative authorities allow our maritime partners to  
15 expand production capacity, modernize facilities, and  
16 strengthen supply chains.

17 In closing, your leadership and partnership are  
18 critical to the Navy's continued success and improvement.  
19 On behalf of our sailors, civilians, and families around the  
20 world. Thank you. I look forward to your questions.

21 [The prepared statement of Admiral Kilby follows:]

22 [SUBCOMMITTEE INSERT]

23 Senator Sullivan: Thank you, Admiral. Our next  
24 witness is the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps,  
25 General Gering. General, the floor is yours, sir.



1           STATEMENT OF GENERAL BRADFORD J. GERING, USMC,  
2 ASSISTANT COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

3           General Gering: Chairman Sullivan, Ranking Member,  
4 Hirono, distinguished members of the subcommittee, thank you  
5 for the opportunity to appear before you today. I'm honored  
6 to represent the Marine Corps and discuss our current  
7 warfighting readiness.

8           The Marine Corps provides unique value to the Nation  
9 and Joint Force. We are both the Nation's global response  
10 force, and a persistent integrated standing force in the  
11 Indo-Pacific. This combination is at the heart of our force  
12 design and ensures we are prepared to meet the challenges  
13 outlined in the National Defense Strategy. Our traditional  
14 role as a crisis response force is embodied by the  
15 Amphibious Ready Group and Marine Expeditionary Unit, most  
16 often referred to as the ARG/MEU. This sea-based capability  
17 provides our Nation with decision space and options, changes  
18 the behavior of bad actors, and delivers swift and decisive  
19 action when required.

20           Our commandant has set the North Star of providing  
21 combatant commanders with a global 3.0 new ARG presence.  
22 This equates to ARG/MEU deployments from both the East and  
23 West Coast, and an episodically deployed ARG/MEU from the  
24 forward deployed naval forces in Japan. Building on this  
25 force design has created stand in forces that are purpose

1 built to operate persistently within contested maritime  
2 spaces. These forward deployed forces provide a continuous  
3 presence, enable the Joint Force, and contribute to  
4 deterrence with allies and partners.

5 We are not without challenges, but we're getting after  
6 them. In partnership with the Navy, we are working to  
7 improve the availability of amphibious warfare ships. We  
8 are also working to field organic littoral connectors.  
9 Thanks to your support and oversight, we have made  
10 significant progress in this area with the procurement of  
11 Medium Landing Ship, or LSM, and we need to continue to move  
12 forward with a sense of urgency in both areas; amphibious  
13 warship readiness availability and lateral mobility.

14 Despite these challenges, your Marines are ready. Once  
15 again, the Marine Corps has made its recruiting mission in  
16 fiscal year 2025, and is ahead of mission for fiscal year  
17 2026. It's a testament to the quality of the Marines we  
18 select to find the next generation and the critical  
19 resources this committee helps provide. This success in  
20 recruiting is the essential first step. Our institutional  
21 commitment to standards-based training and achieving  
22 brilliance in the basics is what forges our warfighting  
23 edge. And this relentless focus on fundamental excellence  
24 is precisely what enables us to remain the world's premier  
25 fighting force.



1           We also recognize that taking care of Marines and their  
2 families is a warfighting necessity that directly impacts  
3 readiness and retention. Our Barracks 2030 Initiative is  
4 making tangible progress, thanks in a large part to the  
5 continued support of this committee. In the last fiscal  
6 year, we completed four new barracks, began construction on  
7 eight others, awarded renovations for an additional 11, and  
8 outfitted 159 barracks with new furnishings.

9           We're also tackling child care challenges head on. We  
10 have implemented key recruitment and retention incentives  
11 for our direct care employees. These incentives include 100  
12 percent child care discount, increased salaries, and a  
13 priority placement transfer program that allows military  
14 spouses to seamlessly move between installation child  
15 development centers when their service member executes  
16 permanent change of station orders.

17           Finally, I'm proud to report to you that for a third  
18 consecutive year, your Marine Corps has earned a clean audit  
19 opinion. This is a direct reflection of our commitment to  
20 fiscal stewardship, and demonstrates our accountability for  
21 every taxpayer dollar. In conclusion, the Marine Corps  
22 appreciates the continued congressional oversight and  
23 support for the commandant's priorities, which remain  
24 essential for building enduring readiness across the total  
25 force.

1           Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today,  
2 and I look forward to your questions.

3           [The prepared statement of General Gering follows:]

4           [SUBCOMMITTEE INSERT]

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25



1           Senator Sullivan: Thank you, General. Our next  
2 witness is the Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General  
3 Lamontagne.

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25



1           STATEMENT OF GENERAL JOHN D. LAMONTAGNE, USAF, VICE  
2 CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE

3           General Lamontagne: Chairman Sullivan, Ranking Member  
4 Hirono, and distinguished members of the subcommittee, thank  
5 you for the opportunity to talk about the readiness of your  
6 United States Air Force.

7           As General Wilsbach testified, the most important thing  
8 the Air Force does for the Joint Force and for the Nation is  
9 to fly and fix aircraft so that we are ready to answer the  
10 Nation's call. The Air Force's lethality depends on the  
11 professionalism of our airmen, the capability of our  
12 equipment, and the skill at which we bring them together.  
13 Airmen are our most precious resource.

14           The Active Duty, Air National Guard, Reserve, and  
15 civilian workforce are why the United States Air Force is  
16 effective at a moment's notice. We are investing in them to  
17 keep the Air Force the most capable and lethal in the world.  
18 We update our fitness policy to push our airmen to new  
19 levels, and ensure they are ready to stand shoulder to  
20 shoulder with our joint partners on the toughest  
21 battlefields.

22           We are also increasing our airman's quality of life by  
23 updating dormitories and child care centers. We strive to  
24 make the Air Force an unmatched place to serve. We are  
25 meeting our recruitment goals, bringing in talented men and



1 women from across the country. We are also seeing strong  
2 retention numbers across the force. Importantly, the Air  
3 Force is on track to train 1,500 pilots per year to expand  
4 our flying corps.

5 From the perspective of equipment, our outstanding  
6 airmen fix our platforms and keep the Air Force running.  
7 They need the right logistical support to do their job. To  
8 that end, the Air Force is leveraging the Weapons Systems  
9 Sustainment Account to increase aircraft availability, which  
10 allows our aviators to get the parts and sets they need to  
11 build competence.

12 While we are working to be more ready today than  
13 yesterday, we are modernizing to be even better tomorrow.  
14 We are recapitalizing our ground-based strategic deterrent,  
15 fighter, bomber, and tanker aircraft, as well as the  
16 command-and-control architectures that bring them together.  
17 We appreciate the acquisition reforms supported by this  
18 subcommittee that are allowing us to develop capabilities  
19 faster. The B-21, F-47 and Collaborative Combat Aircraft  
20 will present our adversaries with dilemmas they cannot  
21 solve.

22 The lethality of your Air Force is highest when we  
23 exercise our well-trained airmen with capable equipment.  
24 The Air Force takes this aspect of our job very seriously.  
25 At the tactical level, our airmen are practicing agile



1 combat employment and preparing to fight in exercises like  
2 Bamboo Eagle. Last summer, the Department of the Air Force  
3 employed more than 400 aircraft and 15,000 personnel across  
4 50 locations in the Pacific to improve our ability to fight.  
5 Our airmen are ready to respond to our Nation's needs.

6 In conclusion, Operations Midnight Hammer, Absolute  
7 Resolve, and Epic Fury demonstrate that in coordination with  
8 our joint partners, your Air Force is the most capable and  
9 lethal air force on the planet. We will focus on taking  
10 care of airmen, sustaining the fleet, and making  
11 acquisitions for the future to stay ahead of our potential  
12 adversaries. Your Air Force will fix and fly aircraft to  
13 deter potential adversaries, and to win our Nation's wars.

14 I look forward to answering your questions and  
15 partnering with you to improve your Air Force.

16 [The prepared statement of General Lamontagne follows:]

17 [SUBCOMMITTEE INSERT]

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25



1           Senator Sullivan: Thank you, General. Our next  
2 witness is the Vice Chief of Space Operations, General  
3 Bratton.

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25



1 STATEMENT OF GENERAL SHAWN N. BRATTON, USSF, VICE  
2 CHIEF OF SPACE OPERATIONS

3 General Bratton: Chairman Sullivan, Ranking Member  
4 Hirono, distinguished members of the subcommittee, thank you  
5 for the opportunity to talk to you today about the United  
6 States Space Force.

7 Recent events around the world clearly demonstrate the  
8 importance of the Space Force as part of the Joint Force,  
9 with Guardians, both in garrison and deployed in harm's way.  
10 Our need to generate readiness remains critical. In the  
11 past year, we've closed on many items to increase our  
12 readiness. We put on orbit two Global Positioning System  
13 spacecraft to enhance our navigation and timing, two  
14 Geosynchronous Space Situational Awareness Program  
15 spacecraft to increase our domain awareness, and 42 Data  
16 Transport Layer spacecraft to build the backbone for our  
17 missile warning capability. Along with our commercial  
18 partners, we've executed 170 launches this year, and the  
19 Launch Enterprise counts three new entrants as significant  
20 progress.

21 Your Space Force has authorized the early use of new  
22 radar, has upgraded optical surveillance systems to better  
23 track adversary activity on orbit. We've operationally  
24 accepted additional systems in domain awareness,  
25 electromagnetic warfare, and missile warning that enhance



1 our capabilities in those mission areas.

2 We stood up our officer training course to baseline all  
3 of our officers in space, cyber intelligence, and  
4 acquisitions, and we built a program to provide initial  
5 qualification training specifically for our acquisition  
6 workforce. We've activated three mission deltas, eight  
7 system deltas, and two service components, and we are on  
8 track to meet our fiscal year 2026 session goals.

9 Our priority is clear; we must protect the Joint Force  
10 from space-enabled attack. To do this, Space Force  
11 Guardians have participated in a variety of readiness-  
12 producing activities designed to ensure space superiority.  
13 Exercises like FLASHPOINT, RESOLUTE SPACE, and SPACE FLAG  
14 have been particularly helpful in generating readiness. As  
15 my colleagues here know, and joint doctrine will attest,  
16 training is essential component of readiness, and the Space  
17 Force is organizing to ensure we train our forces for  
18 combat.

19 We're doing this by using the Space Force's Force  
20 Generation model, or SPAFORGEN, to deliberately carve out  
21 time for advanced training so that Guardians are always  
22 ready. As Secretary Meink noted recently, Guardians must be  
23 ready at any time for any threat across the entire spectrum  
24 of conflict. These new missions, and our responsibilities  
25 to the Joint Force, mean the Space Force must aggressively



1 increase its end strength and infrastructure. We will need  
2 to double in size in the coming years to meet identified  
3 operational needs, as well as significantly increase our  
4 training facilities even as we prepare for current  
5 warfighting challenges. We are aggressively looking ahead  
6 at capability requirements for the future force.

7 We've seen successes in our continued development in  
8 our operational test and training enterprise, including  
9 standing up a new system, Delta, that will synchronize  
10 acquisition efforts for critical space training  
11 capabilities. Moving forward, our planned growth will  
12 require infrastructure for training as well as enablers  
13 needed to acquire and operate new systems. All of this will  
14 enhance our operational readiness in the years ahead.

15 The Space Force continues to provide tremendous value  
16 to both the Joint Force and the Nation. General Salzman  
17 said last week, on nearly every mission around the globe,  
18 the Space Force delivered on our operational promises to the  
19 Joint Force, providing unmatched combat capability from  
20 space, to ensure combatant commanders can project power and  
21 meet our national military objectives.

22 With your continued support, that value will grow as we  
23 work to build the service to meet these rapidly expanding  
24 requirements. Thank you.

25 [The prepared statement of General Bratton follows:]

[SUBCOMMITTEE INSERT]

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25



1           Senator Sullivan: Thank you, General. And last, but  
2 not least, is Diana Maurer, who's the Director Of Defense  
3 Capabilities and Management at GAO.

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25



1           STATEMENT OF MS. DIANA C. MAURER, DIRECTOR, DEFENSE  
2 CAPABILITIES AND MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY  
3 OFFICE

4           Ms. Maurer: Good afternoon, Chairman Sullivan, Ranking  
5 Member Hirono, and other members, and staff. I'm pleased to  
6 be here today to discuss GAO's independent, nonpartisan  
7 oversight of military readiness, and what we found is,  
8 frankly, a mixed picture. On the one hand, the United  
9 States is fortunate to have the strongest military in the  
10 world, but our service members often meet demanding mission  
11 needs despite several significant and enduring readiness  
12 problems.

13           Over the course of several administrations, the  
14 military has overused and under-maintained too many weapons  
15 systems for too long, and for years, the services have  
16 stretched to meet demanding operational needs with fewer  
17 people, older equipment and facilities, and a shrinking  
18 industrial base. At the same time, the Department is, all  
19 too often, not realistically planned for how to sustain  
20 ships, aircraft, ground vehicles, and other systems.

21           And across the services, we found a lack of spare  
22 parts, maintainers, repair facilities, technical data,  
23 training, and other problems. And as a result, too many  
24 systems that taxpayers have spent billions to build and  
25 maintain are not mission-capable.

1           Now, prior to today's hearing, I had the privilege to  
2 meet with every single other witness at this table, and I  
3 know that everyone here is committed to improving  
4 sustainment and readiness. And so far, the Department has  
5 implemented about 50 of the nearly 200 recommendations from  
6 the dozens of reports summarized in my statement for today.  
7 And implementing those recommendations have helped enhance  
8 readiness.

9           For example, in response to our reports, the Army  
10 revamped how it addresses staffing shortages and trained  
11 soldiers who operate air and missile defense systems. The  
12 Navy overhauled the Surface Warfare Officer career path and  
13 training, which helped improve retention and yielded more  
14 than \$170 million in cost savings. The Air Force improved  
15 how it organizes and deploys its forces, and Space Force  
16 Guardians from different units now train together, just like  
17 they would fight together. And the Marine Corps and the  
18 other services have made significant progress addressing the  
19 50 recommendations we've made to improve the condition of  
20 privatized housing and military barracks. The military will  
21 reap further benefits from implementing the nearly 150 open  
22 recommendations referenced in my statement.

23           For today, and in the coming months, we will issue new  
24 reports with new recommendations. We will pay particular  
25 attention to whether sustainment and readiness



1 considerations keep pace with the Department's efforts to  
2 revise and streamline its acquisition policies. In closing,  
3 GAO will continue to support this committee and the entire  
4 Congress. We will continue to develop recommendations that  
5 enhance military readiness, and we look forward for future  
6 hearings and opportunities to speak with you and your staff.

7 Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to testify  
8 today, and I look forward to addressing any questions you  
9 may have.

10 [The prepared statement of Ms. Maurer follows:]

11 [SUBCOMMITTEE INSERT]

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25



1           Senator Sullivan: Great. Thank you, Ms. Maurer, I  
2 appreciate your testimony, as always, at this hearing.

3           Let me begin by asking, General LaNeve. I want to --  
4 there's press reports that Operation Epic Fury was using for  
5 the first time a low-cost unmanned attack system. A one-way  
6 attack drone. This is part of a trend, I think, a positive  
7 trend within our military to bring cutting edge technology  
8 in an operational environment with speed and relatively low  
9 cost.

10           Can you talk about the development of the Lucas drone,  
11 the timeline it took, and for any of the other vice chiefs,  
12 are there other next-generation capabilities that you want  
13 to highlight that you think are in that category of speed,  
14 effectiveness, efficiency in terms of the development of new  
15 and important weapon systems? General?

16           General LaNeve: Sir, thanks for the question. So,  
17 Admiral Cooper and team at CENTCOM did a fantastic job  
18 developing this and putting it in the in the service  
19 incredibly fast. It's a great example of, you know, why we  
20 went to our pace to get faster turns on producing equipment  
21 for our soldiers.

22           Senator Sullivan: Are there any lessons learned? I  
23 mean, I know it's early days, but any lessons learned on how  
24 you're doing that and that you can replicate?

25           General LaNeve: Sure. I think, you know, there's



1 going to be a lot of lessons learned over the next couple of  
2 weeks as we come out of this. Admiral Cooper's team is  
3 going to feed this to us. I think it's going to help us see  
4 how fast we have to produce this at scale --

5 Senator Sullivan: Yeah.

6 General LaNeve: -- how we have to work on our  
7 industrial base in order to help us do some of the advanced  
8 manufacturing to get these into the systems. We know we  
9 have to do this at scale. Thank you, sir.

10 Senator Sullivan: Other, witnesses on that issue in  
11 terms of, next generation capabilities that are being  
12 rapidly developed.

13 General Gering: Chairman, thanks for the question. An  
14 example I can give you for the Marine Corps is our work with  
15 first-person view, one-way attack drones. So, these are  
16 small group 1-type drones that are, obviously, armed. And  
17 we have the Drone Dominance Task Force down in Quantico, and  
18 the Marine Corps Attack Drone Team have been working very  
19 hard on this to have rapidly field capability for a majority  
20 of the force but starting with our infantry battalions.

21 And they fielded over 1,000 systems. They're going to  
22 field about 3,000 more, we think, this month. And by the  
23 end of this month, every active-duty infantry battalion in  
24 the Marine Corps should have this capability, and we look to  
25 continue to scale that, see what other type vendors might



1 come forward with the capability, but it's something we're  
2 moving out with really quick, sir. Thank you.

3 Senator Sullivan: Admiral?

4 Admiral Kilby: Sir, I'd just offer, the Ford Strike  
5 Group deployed with -- we talked about last year at this  
6 Readiness Committee, the want of directed energy, which we  
7 need to get after. So, we don't use our high-end munitions  
8 to deplete low-end threats to us. The Ford Strike Group  
9 deployed with a number of systems that we bolted on her that  
10 aren't completely integrated but are effective against  
11 counter-UAS. So, being willing to field things fast, learn,  
12 and then spread across the forest, we're going to spread  
13 that same capability on the West Coast Strike Group, I  
14 think, is an example of what you're getting after. But  
15 we've used examples from our sister services to have that  
16 counter-UAS capability, which is so prevalent, and we're  
17 seeing today in Epic Fury.

18 Senator Sullivan: Good. Anyone else? General?

19 General Lamontagne: Chairman Sullivan, a couple of  
20 years ago, the Air Force developed the Advanced Precision  
21 Kill Weapon System. We made some adjustments to that, to be  
22 clear, and called it FALCO, an air-delivered munition that  
23 is on orders of magnitude cheaper, but very effective, but  
24 orders of magnitude cheaper than other systems.

25 Senator Sullivan: Is that being used now?



1           General Lamontagne: We got it into from idea into  
2 employment in about 3 months, and you can be rest assured  
3 that we are advancing other capabilities that we'd be happy  
4 to address with you at higher levels of classification.

5           Senator Sullivan: Good. Let me ask, I just wanted to  
6 touch briefly. General George and a senior group of Army  
7 enlisted and Army generals were in Alaska just 2 weeks ago.  
8 Admiral Kilby, you know, ICEX is happening this week up in  
9 Alaska. Can you describe some of the work that you're doing  
10 in the Arctic and making our Northern flank more secure? We  
11 talk about the Western Hemisphere, that includes the Arctic,  
12 of course, but I'd like to get many takeaways from General  
13 George's visit. And, Admiral, I'm always interested in what  
14 the ICEX goals are going to be.

15          General LaNeve: Sure. Thanks for the question. And  
16 thank you for the support of the 11th Airborne. My daughter  
17 served in --

18          Senator Sullivan: America has another airborne unit.  
19 We always like to remind people of that. It's in Alaska,  
20 not just the 82nd anymore.

21          General LaNeve: Yes, sir. I commanded the 82nd.  
22 There's a good, healthy, you know, fight going back.

23          Senator Sullivan: That's what we want. Good rivalry.

24          General LaNeve: Sir, my daughter was in 125th, you  
25 know, before this, you know, turned into 11th Airborne, that



1 name. It's not -- it's just not a name alone. It's a  
2 culture that's being developed up there, and it's an  
3 incredibly important culture for the identity of the unit.  
4 So, we thank you for your support.

5 We're learning a lot from the exercise that just took  
6 place, you know, a couple that were propagating across, you  
7 know, our formation, batteries, the how the Arctic, you  
8 know, can drain batteries really fast. And we have to get  
9 after technology to help us on that, and that's going to  
10 that's going to go across our formations.

11 We're learning about equipment that's specialized for  
12 the Arctic. Our CATVs, you know, we have about 30 right  
13 now. We're going to try to scale up to 180 here over the  
14 next couple of years. We know that those are incredibly  
15 effective in the Arctic. And the team up there is passing  
16 feedback, back to us, constantly on what they're learning up  
17 there; equipment, soldier clothing, and how to get this at  
18 scale, for our team up there and to take those lessons, and  
19 like I said, push it across the force. We really appreciate  
20 the support from you up there, sir.

21 Senator Sullivan: Great. Admiral, I'll defer that to  
22 the next round. I want to be respectful of my colleagues  
23 here. We've gone over. Senator Hirono.

24 Senator Hirono: Yeah. Thank you. We are at war with  
25 Iran, and Secretary Hegseth said just today, "We are just



1 getting started." I want to ask each of you going down the  
2 line, starting with General LaNeve. What readiness impacts  
3 this war will cause for each of your services. And,  
4 frankly, I don't know how you're supposed to gauge the  
5 impact on readiness when you don't know how long this war  
6 will last. As Secretary Hegseth has said, "We are just  
7 getting started." But you should just tell us, you know,  
8 how are you going to gauge the impact on readiness for our  
9 services under those kinds of conditions?

10 So, I'd like to get your responses in terms of extended  
11 ship deployment, planes flying additional hours in hostile  
12 territory, and the rapid expenditure of precision-guided  
13 munitions, which were already in short supply. And before  
14 we go down the line, I'd like to ask each of you, by the end  
15 of today, if you each can send me via classified email a  
16 snapshot of your current munitions inventory, projected burn  
17 rates, and any magazine shifting you're doing to meet the  
18 demands of U.S. Central Command.

19 So, in response to the impact on readiness, why don't  
20 we go down the line starting with General LaNeve?

21 General LaNeve: Ma'am, first, thank you for the  
22 question. And to your second question, yes.

23 Senator Hirono: Are you speaking into the mic?

24 General LaNeve: Yes, ma'am, I am.

25 Senator Hirono: Can you -- yes, thank you.



1           General LaNeve: Yeah. Thank you, ma'am. Ma'am, we  
2 build readiness for the COCOM commanders. So, they're going  
3 to utilize the readiness, and as they come back, we'll  
4 rebuild that readiness for our COCOM commanders again.  
5 Right now, we don't have, you know, a good, estimate on, you  
6 know, what is being clearly burned. But, you know, as the  
7 Title 10, you know, part of this is the readiness that we're  
8 building for these types of contingencies.

9           Admiral Kilby: Hey, ma'am, thanks for the question. I  
10 would offer a Ford as a great example of the flexibility of  
11 the Navy, and I'll come back to your specific. But she  
12 started out deployed to the High North, she went to the  
13 Eastern Med, she went to the Gulf of America, and now she's  
14 back in the Eastern Med and supporting CENTCOM. So, that  
15 extension will ultimately be about an 11-month deployment.  
16 So, there'll be an impact on her return and the schedule for  
17 her maintenance availability so she's ready to go again.

18           The good part about our public shipyards is they're  
19 adjusting that schedule. They're ready to bring our carrier  
20 back and maintain her. I would say the specific stats are  
21 17 of the last 25 avails were completed within 2 weeks from  
22 a carrier perspective. So, there is a cost, but we're ready  
23 to go turn that ship around and have her do what she needs  
24 to do, ma'am.

25           Senator Hirono: As far as the Ford, isn't the Ford



1 already beyond the deployment that it was already on, and  
2 now, it's in the Middle East?

3 Admiral Kilby: Yes, that's correct.

4 Senator Hirono: So, okay, we'll go down the line. But  
5 really, I mean, I would like your frank assessment on how  
6 are you supposed to determine impact on readiness if you  
7 don't know the extent of this war and what it's going to  
8 take. And as we are being told that we are now controlling  
9 the Iranian airspace, that means we have a lot more assets  
10 to affect that. So, really, please be frank with us. You  
11 know, if you can't gauge the impact on readiness at this  
12 moment because you're not told how long this is going to --  
13 you should just tell us, please.

14 General Gering: Ranking Member --

15 Senator Hirono: Go ahead.

16 General Gering: -- thanks. Much like General LaNeve  
17 said, you know, under our Title 10 responsibilities, we do,  
18 ma'am, organize, train, equip, and certify any Marine  
19 formation that goes forward to any combatant commander  
20 worldwide, and that remains the case both in Central Command  
21 and the other combatant commands.

22 General Lamontagne: Thank you, Ranking Member Hirono.  
23 Just like my peers, it's a little too early to tell exactly  
24 what kind of impact it's going to have just based on where  
25 we are in the conflict, but we'll absolutely commit to



1 working with your team to provide details on munitions  
2 inventories as we go forward.

3 General Bratton: Ma'am, we do have Guardian support  
4 both in garrison and forward-deployed Space Forces Central  
5 working for CENTCOM. We'll get the readiness reporting here  
6 as they come in through the squadron reports and can update  
7 you on that as it comes in.

8 Ms. Maurer: Senator, real quickly, from the GAO  
9 perspective. Obviously, we don't have an immediate  
10 oversight of what's happening in terms of the conflict, but  
11 we know from some of our prior work that every additional  
12 flying hour or steaming hour creates additional demands on  
13 the sustainment and maintenance enterprise down the road.  
14 So, Admiral Kilby is on point with that. We also have an  
15 ongoing review looking at the ammunitions inventory and how  
16 that compares with requirements. The team is writing that  
17 draft report, and we'll have that completed in the course of  
18 the next couple of months. So, once that's completed, we  
19 can definitely share that with you and your staff.

20 Senator Hirono: What I'm hearing from you is that it's  
21 a little too early to determine what the impact on readiness  
22 will be, which says to me that there may be another time  
23 when this subcommittee needs to have a hearing to get us  
24 updated. But can I also have your commitment that you will  
25 provide the information that I'm requesting regarding the

1 via classified email?

2 General LaNeve: Yes

3 Admiral Kily: Yes, ma'am.

4 General Gering: Yes.

5 General Lamontagne: Yes, ma'am.

6 General Bratton: Yes, ma'am.

7 Senator Hirono: Thank you. We're going into second  
8 round?

9 Senator Sullivan: Yeah. Admiral, I asked earlier  
10 about ICEX and Arctic operations, and then, General Gering,  
11 I'd also like to get a sense from you. I know the Marine  
12 Corps is looking at ramping up some of its Arctic exercises  
13 and deployments in Alaska, and I'd like to get an update on  
14 that as well.

15 Admiral Kilby: Thank you, Chairman. I'm selfishly  
16 excited about ICEX. I'm hoping to go. I'm on the wait  
17 list, but we have a set of experiments each year that we  
18 pursue. And as you know, it's a super challenging  
19 environment to be in. We dedicate two submarines generally  
20 to that. There's some work between them, but there's also  
21 environmental work and understanding the impact of sound  
22 propagation and how that affects our systems. So, we get a  
23 ton out of that exercise. Super important for us, and we  
24 appreciate the support to continue to do that.

25 Senator Sullivan: Great. Thank you. General?



1           General Gering:  Chairman, thank you for the question.  
2  For the Marine Corps, as you're aware, sir, we are  
3  participating in Arctic Edge today, with a 2026 command  
4  element and other types of subordinate task organized  
5  formations.  And what we see in Alaska is certainly an  
6  incredible advanced cold weather-type training, but also the  
7  aviation and fires training we can get in Alaska is second  
8  to none.  And we see that throughout the year, we will  
9  participate in many of the Flag series exercises where we  
10 get a ton of readiness, including Northern Edge going  
11 forward.  So, we're there today, as you're aware, and we  
12 will be there episodically throughout this year, sir.

13           Senator Sullivan:  Great.  Thank you.  General, let me  
14 turn to another really, really important question.  You've  
15 all touched on it, but what I'd like to do now is just to  
16 the extent we can, from all the services, a get a better  
17 sense of the lessons learned that we have had from the  
18 recruiting and retention challenges, and then how quickly  
19 those were turned around.

20           I don't think it was an issue that got enough media  
21 attention that a couple of years ago during the Biden  
22 administration, and there's probably a whole host of reasons  
23 for it recruiting in some of our services, Army and the Navy  
24 in particular, was at very dangerous levels where we were  
25 missing the numbers, the targets to recruit young Americans



1 for the all-volunteer force by thousands, by thousands.

2 The services got on it. Everybody undertook a focus on  
3 this, and now, if you can repeat again, I think everybody is  
4 in a good spot. All the services on recruiting and  
5 retention in terms of the numbers, but we need to look at  
6 the lessons learned on that and maybe miss more when the  
7 services go through. Maybe you should, weigh in as well,  
8 because that's an existential crisis to the military that we  
9 had a couple of years ago. If you have an all-volunteer  
10 force and you can't encourage the young men and women of our  
11 country to volunteer, you can be in a lot of trouble  
12 quickly. And I think we dodged a bullet here.

13 But I'd like to get from all of you. Why you think we  
14 turned that around so quickly, and what are the lessons  
15 learned to make sure we don't go through that again?  
16 General, we'll start with you.

17 General LaNeve: Yeah, sure. Thanks for the question.  
18 And, you know, we're on pace to exceed last year's goal.  
19 Right now, I think there's a lot of things that feed into  
20 this. We've transformed the command that oversees it. So,  
21 we have training and transformation command that has made  
22 it, you know, more streamlined. And it's the unit that  
23 takes somebody from their, you know, household all the way  
24 through training and into the unit and then a question into  
25 the future. So, we've streamlined and made it more



1 efficient throughout the whole ecosystem of bringing people  
2 into the military.

3 Now we've the right people also, the right recruiters  
4 that are out there in our hometowns across the across the  
5 country. It's the right trainers that are in the, you know,  
6 training base to do this. And I think there's another part  
7 in this, as well, and it's a commitment to our facilities,  
8 to make sure that where people work and where the people  
9 live get the proper, you know, money into fixing the  
10 infrastructure. So, I think there's a lot that plays into  
11 the ecosystem.

12 What we're not doing as an army is taking our eye off  
13 the ball. The chief and the secretary have been very clear  
14 on this that will continue to focus on this, bringing the  
15 right people into the Army and getting them out into our  
16 formation.

17 Senator Sullivan: Can I just get from all of you as  
18 well? And we didn't lower our standards, right? Some  
19 people said, well, you know, maybe these standards are too  
20 high for young Americans the way that we fix this was not to  
21 lower the standards. Isn't that correct?

22 General LaNeve: That's correct, sir.

23 Senator Sullivan: Admiral?

24 Admiral Kilby: Yeah, I would agree with General  
25 Laneve. We have a relentless focus on the system that is



1 our recruiting apparatus. So, I get briefed on it  
2 quarterly. I went to visit the recruiting command several  
3 weeks ago, and I am awed about the focus of our recruiters  
4 to get people on board.

5 Senator Sullivan: The Navy's on time and on target?

6 Admiral Kilby: We're ahead of schedule, but I think  
7 it's, you know, focus on the recruiter to enable them to be  
8 successful. There's all kinds of things that could keep  
9 that from happening. We've examined the eight functions  
10 that make a recruiter successful, and that goes to our Navy  
11 Education Training command, Great Lakes throughput, our  
12 delayed entry program. All that is exquisitely managed  
13 daily. So, it's a relentless focus from the CNO on down,  
14 and we're going to have to keep our hands on the wheel here.  
15 You just can't go into automatic. It's going to require  
16 that kind of attention.

17 We up-gunned our recruiting command commander from a  
18 one-star to a two-star. Extremely experienced, and he knows  
19 with great, great fidelity on areas that we're recruiting  
20 on, what ratings are most likely to be recruited out of  
21 those areas. So, we're just better at our business.

22 Senator Sullivan: Good. General, now, I'm going to be  
23 a little bit biased here. I don't think the Marine Corps  
24 went through a lot of crises. I think the Marine Corps was  
25 an example a lot of other services looked at. But lessons



1 learned from the Marine Corps on recruiting?

2 General Gering: Chairman, thanks for the question.

3 So, on recruiting for the Marine Corps, I'd really break it  
4 down into three components that have made us successful.

5 The first, I truly believe, is our brand, and that's  
6 ironclad discipline. It's ruthless adherence to standards.  
7 It's first to fight. It's every marine, a rifleman. That  
8 is who we are, and we have to continue to earn that every  
9 day, but I think that brand appeals to a certain group of  
10 individuals that have a propensity to serve.

11 The second component is our recruiting command. And  
12 our recruiters, our recruiters are all handpicked and their  
13 leaders are all board-selected. And so, we put a full  
14 investment in the people that go out on the streets of  
15 America to tell young men and women who we are. And I think  
16 the third component is really the support and oversight that  
17 we get from the Congress to make sure that we're able to  
18 fully resource our recruiting command to include  
19 advertising. So, that's the way I package our recruiting  
20 success, Chairman.

21 Senator Sullivan: Good. I'll turn it back to Senator  
22 Hirono. Although, actually, if you don't mind, I want to  
23 just -- this is a really important question. If we can just  
24 finish up. It's a really important question for everybody.

25 General, the Air Force is on target right now in terms



1 of recruiting. Any lessons learned from the big shift that  
2 happened over the last few years?

3 General Lamontagne: Chairman, I think a lot of  
4 Americans are inspired to join your United States Air Force.  
5 I also think, similar to the other services, a very strong  
6 focus. And, you know, increased attention on it goes a long  
7 way, and that's where we are putting our talent in the  
8 recruiting core.

9 We're also adjusting our focus. Before it was mostly  
10 on the enlisted cadre. Now, we've renamed the Recruiting  
11 Center to the Accessions Center to focus both on enlisted  
12 and officer alike. We've met our recruiting goals in 2024,  
13 2025. We're absolutely on target in 2026, and this year, we  
14 have 10 percent higher applicants to your United States Air  
15 Force Academy.

16 Senator Sullivan: Great. General, what about you?  
17 You just mentioned you got to double the size of the Space  
18 Force. That is a tall order, but I know that you guys are  
19 also hitting your numbers. What's your sense on lessons  
20 learned?

21 General Bratton: Chairman, we're hitting our numbers  
22 now. Our numbers are measured in the hundreds, not the  
23 thousands or tens of thousands my colleagues have to bring  
24 in. We tend to have more applicants than we have space for  
25 right now, and our delayed entry program is at the tune of



1 about 800, so we're covered well into next year already at  
2 this point in the year. And so, we think we can take on any  
3 growth that comes to the Space Force.

4 I will say one of the advantages we saw in the Army  
5 really led us through this as a joint team was in medical  
6 processing and the emphasis on MEPs and accelerating people  
7 through MEPs, understanding how waiver process works, and  
8 went through a series of meetings over the past year really  
9 led by the Army team. But we all benefited from that work  
10 in the medical processing aspect of bringing people into the  
11 services.

12 Senator Sullivan: All right. Thank you. And,  
13 finally, Ms. Maurer, did you -- I know you guys looked at  
14 this as a big issue. What do you think the turnaround that  
15 happened rather quickly was attributable to?

16 Ms. Maurer: I think it's attributable to a couple of  
17 important considerations. First and foremost is senior  
18 level focus and attention on this issue. It's vitally  
19 important to make sure that the services are getting or  
20 hitting their numbers on recruitment, because we found in  
21 many instances from our prior work, shortages and critical  
22 occupations, whether that was air defenders or sailors  
23 aboard in the surface Navy, or the fact that the Space Force  
24 did not have the number of Guardians it needed to fully  
25 staff what it thought it needed under the Space Force. So,



1 having senior level attention definitely makes it as an  
2 important part of this.

3 I think the second thing you're hearing from all the  
4 different services that they've adapted approaches that are  
5 specific to their service, that are targeted on trying to  
6 streamline the process and also find a way, where  
7 appropriate, to make it easier for folks to come into their  
8 particular service without lowering standards. That's a  
9 good news story, and hope that they can continue that  
10 momentum in the coming years.

11 Senator Sullivan: Great. Thank you very much. Really  
12 important question, and congratulations on all -- for all of  
13 you on turning this around. Really critical for our Nation.  
14 Senator Warren.

15 Senator Warren: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you  
16 for holding this this hearing.

17 So, the military spends hundreds of billions of dollars  
18 on equipment, which makes it really galling when that  
19 equipment needs maintenance and our service members are  
20 ready to make a quick fix, but they're not allowed to.  
21 Right to repair will strengthen readiness by making sure  
22 that procurement contracts don't hold back our troops.  
23 Plus, it will help increase competition to grow our  
24 industrial base.

25 Giant defense contractors, however, want to keep our



1 military reliant solely on them. So, their lobbyists are  
2 pretending to be worried that DOD is going to steal their  
3 trade secrets and hand them over to their competitors. We  
4 have heard this song before. The Defense Logistics Agency  
5 had a reverse engineering program for over a decade, and  
6 this was to help DOD save time and money on things like  
7 screws, and door hinges, and antennas, and batteries. But  
8 similar concerns were raised over IP protections, so the  
9 Senate had the Government Accountability Office review this  
10 program back in 2018.

11 General Gering, how many instances did GAO find of  
12 companies being concerned about DLA mishandling their IP for  
13 reverse engineering? What was the number?

14 General Gering: Senator, my understanding is there  
15 were none or zero.

16 Senator Warren: That was the number, right, zero?  
17 That's exactly right. None of the businesses that GAO  
18 talked to about reverse engineering program reported any  
19 concerns about the handling of IP. And that's because DLA  
20 has processes in place to protect intellectual property,  
21 which meant that GAO found, "DLA never released a part that  
22 had controlled data to a competitor." Even the large  
23 defense associations lobbying against right to repair today  
24 told the GAO back then that they had had, "No complaints."

25 The other argument we hear from lobbyists is that



1 companies won't want to do business with DOD if it's so much  
2 as mentions buying contractors IP. So, again, we actually  
3 have an example of this. Let's look at what happened with  
4 DLA's reverse engineering program. General Gering, did  
5 DOD's handling of IP scare businesses away from doing  
6 business with military?

7 General Gering: Senator, not that I'm aware of.

8 Senator Warren: Okay. In fact, again, the whole point  
9 of the program was, "to identify potential new sources for  
10 obsolete parts or those supplied by only one source,  
11 increasing competition and achieving savings." Now, that  
12 may be the problem that the defense industry lobbyists have,  
13 and that is there's more competition and lower prices.

14 But we like to think that is a good thing. Reverse  
15 engineering is helping DOD fill gaps in spare parts, and  
16 right to repair would build on that success in the larger  
17 maintenance space. Don't take it from me, just last year,  
18 339 small businesses sent a letter stating that right to  
19 repair could bring cost effective solutions, accelerated  
20 timelines, and a larger sustainment ecosystem with more  
21 small business participation.

22 Now, last year's NDAA, required now by law, that DOD  
23 identify programs where there is insufficient technical data  
24 for service members to make repairs. So, what I'd like to  
25 do is I'd just like to go down the line here and make sure



1 that each of the services, I just want to ask you the  
2 question; will you provide this committee with the required  
3 data, required by law by the end of this month, and then sit  
4 down with my team on this? I'm just looking for a yes or  
5 no. General?

6 [The information referred to follows:]

7 [SUBCOMMITTEE INSERT]

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25



1           General LaNeve:  Ma'am, thank you for the question.  I  
2 think the -- our data goes to OSD, and they're required to  
3 provide that data.  But we absolutely are going to make the  
4 timeline.

5           Senator Warren:  You will have it in by the end of the  
6 month?

7           General LaNeve:  Yes, ma'am?

8           Senator Warren:  That's what I want to hear.  Admiral?

9           Admiral Kilby:  We will, ma'am.

10          Senator Warren:  Good.  I like that.  General?

11          General Lamontagne:  Senator, we will.

12          Senator Warren:  Good.  General?

13          General Lamontagne:  Senator, we will.

14          Senator Warren:  Good.  General?

15          General Bratton:  Senator, yes, ma'am, we will.

16          Senator Warren:  Good.  Miss?

17          Ms. Maurer:  Well, Senator, I'm a GAO representative,  
18 and thank you for giving a call out to our 2018 report.

19          Senator Warren:  It's a terrific report.

20          Ms. Maurer:  Well, thank you very much.  We had another  
21 report that came out just a few months ago that talked about  
22 the concerns with vendor lock because of this issue that  
23 you've highlighted.  We found significant problems with that  
24 issue in the F-35, littoral combat ship, Stryker, the  
25 Virginia-class submarine, among others, and we look forward

1 to having the Department fully implement our recommendations  
2 --

3 Senator Warren: Yeah.

4 Ms. Maurer: -- from that review.

5 Senator Warren: Thank you. You know, right to repair  
6 is such a common-sense proposal, and it not only helps our  
7 military be able to get things fixed and back into service,  
8 it lowers cost, and it also increases competition, and  
9 increases the opportunities for other businesses, for  
10 smaller businesses to get in and have an opportunity to be  
11 part of our base, and ultimately, that strengthens the  
12 supply chain for all of us.

13 So, right now, we are in a place where the Senate, the  
14 House, and the Trump administration all support this effort.  
15 We cannot allow large defense contractors and their  
16 lobbyists to stand in the way. I look forward to working  
17 with my colleagues and with all of you in getting this done.  
18 Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 Senator Sullivan: Thank you, Senator Warren. And  
20 Senator Warren knows that she and I don't agree on  
21 everything here in this committee, but I will commend her  
22 very much for her leadership on this issue that has a lot of  
23 broad bipartisan support, and I think we need to do it. So,  
24 thank you, Senator Warren. Senator Scott.

25 Senator Scott: I also want to thank Senator Warren for



1 her leadership on this right to repair issue, because it's  
2 the right thing to do. And if it wasn't -- it wouldn't be  
3 happening, but for her tenacity. So, I want to thank her.

4 Thank each of you for being here today. I want to  
5 thank each and every one of you for all that you do to  
6 support our warfighters and ensure our Joint Forces ready  
7 any time, any place to deliver on the Commander-in-Chief's  
8 mission, which is what you all -- what you do.

9 When you talk about readiness to defend our country  
10 against adversaries and growing threats, Communist China  
11 comes to mind. It sure does for you. Every day, the CCP  
12 will stop at nothing to undermine our country and way of  
13 life. And their aggression grows by the day.

14 So, General Gering and Admiral Kilby, as we witness the  
15 increased aggression and growing threats from Communist  
16 China in the Indo-Pacific, it's clear that our country must  
17 be ready and able to respond now more than ever, because  
18 it's clear threats. I want to hear from you on the  
19 Amphibious Readiness Group. Is that a reality, the 3.0.?

20 Admiral Kilby: I'll start, and then I'll turn it over  
21 to ACMC. We understand the importance of the Army presence,  
22 it's ability for us to respond to crisis in almost real time  
23 with Marines and Sailors. Sir, my ability to deliver,  
24 amphibious maintenance has been challenged, and I've been  
25 very clear about that. And, last year when I testified, we



1 were at 42 percent combat surge-ready for amphibious ships.  
2 This year, we're at 53 percent. I don't feel good about  
3 that because our goal is 80 percent, and I'm working hard  
4 with the ACMC to do that.

5 We co-chair the Amphibious Force Readiness Board where  
6 we look at all means, we briefed Senator Sullivan on this  
7 several weeks ago, on the efforts across the board to  
8 increase the numbers and availabilities of our amphibious  
9 ships. And I'll just turn it over to ACMC for anything he  
10 wants to add.

11 General Gering: Yes, Senator, thanks for the question.  
12 So, Admiral Kilby and I are completely aligned on this. I  
13 think a couple of recent things that have occurred. The  
14 commandant has stated the three of you as the requirement,  
15 his requirement for combatant commands. Most recently, the  
16 Secretary of War has directed that the SECNAV does support  
17 that. And he has established this Amphibious Force  
18 Readiness Board, which Admiral Kilby and I will co-chair for  
19 the first time tomorrow, and I think that that's going to be  
20 the body or the entity that actually determines what would  
21 it take, what's it going to take to get there.

22 Senator Scott: For the two of you, is 31 the right  
23 number or should it be something like 45?

24 Admiral Kilby: My rough math says it's north of 31,  
25 and that's dependent on a lot of things. What is the,



1 operational readiness, response plan turnaround? Is it 36  
2 months or 40 months? So, we've got to work through that and  
3 drive that back to get it more efficient, but it is more  
4 than 31, sir.

5 Senator Scott: You agree?

6 General Gering: Senator, I do agree. We have work to  
7 do in this board that we're going to co-chair. Should  
8 really get after that number. But I would think it's  
9 probably somewhere near 40, but we have to put more rigor  
10 into that analysis.

11 Senator Scott: I'll tell you, if it's higher, your  
12 readiness numbers actually as a percentage, is lower.  
13 Right? So, we don't have enough. So, General Gering,  
14 following Secretary Hegseth Barracks Task Force, which was  
15 established in October, can you talk about how the Marine  
16 Corps is modernizing the barracks for single Marines?

17 General Gering: Senator, thanks for the question.  
18 This has been a priority since he became the commandant. It  
19 was one of his top five, and it stays his top five. So, we  
20 have taken it's really approach of looking at how we manage  
21 the barracks and then how we modernize them through both  
22 renovation, and new build, and then how we furnish them.  
23 So, we are on track. We are in execution. We are seeing  
24 tangible results. In 2025 alone, we completed four new  
25 barracks constructions, began eight others -- awarded eight



1 other barracks for renovation and furnished in excess of 139  
2 barracks rooms with new furniture. So, we're moving out.

3 Senator Scott: Great. Admiral Kilby, we've seen an  
4 increase in suicide with Sailors. Can you talk about how  
5 you're addressing it?

6 Admiral Kilby: Yes, sir. Well, first of all, any loss  
7 of Sailor's tragedy. It's doubly tragic when it's a loss to  
8 suicide. So, we take this seriously. And regrettably, last  
9 year, our numbers increased. So, we're attacking this from  
10 two ends; prevention, and then a postvention perspective.  
11 Secretary Cao has set up a task force, of which both ACMC  
12 and I have provided folks, and we both are included in that  
13 to really get after what is happening here, what are the  
14 trends?

15 When I was the acting CNO, I signed off 80 condolence  
16 letters and over two-thirds of them were for suicide. So,  
17 we've got work to do here. Sir, we take it seriously. It  
18 is a tragedy, and we want to get after this in a meaningful  
19 manner.

20 Senator Scott: Thank each of you for what you do.

21 Senator Sullivan: Thank you. And by the way,  
22 gentlemen, thank you for the briefing on the amphibs with  
23 the SECNAV. I very much appreciate it. I was very  
24 informative. Senator Hirono.

25 Senator Hirono: I, too, had a question relating to the



1 readiness of our amphibious ships, because last year, it was  
2 13 out of 32 ships were ready. And now we're talking about  
3 Admiral Kilby and General Gering you're going to get  
4 together to get us to 80 percent readiness, which I think I  
5 heard you say, contemplating taking 3 years. Is that what I  
6 heard?

7 Admiral Kilby: We don't have a timeline on how long  
8 it's going to take, ma'am. And actually, combat surge-ready  
9 means those ships that are not in a depot status are  
10 available for deployment, and that includes those on  
11 deployment. So, last year, that number for you was 42.  
12 This year it's 53. So, we're increasing, but we're not  
13 where we need to be.

14 Senator Hirono: I should say not fast enough, but  
15 among the three of us, you can see that -- oh he left -- you  
16 can see that we are all very focused on the number of  
17 amphibious ships that are ready for to conduct Marine Corps  
18 operations. So, I want you to know that I'm certainly  
19 joining my colleagues in that concern.

20 A number of you have already focused on the living  
21 conditions for our service people, and that is a continuing  
22 concern. And I just want to emphasize how important it is  
23 for all of you to take your heart GAO's recommendations for  
24 making improvements to military housing. And we're not  
25 there yet, I don't think that you've hit 100 percent of the

1 recommendations. Is that correct, Ms. Maurer?

2 Ms. Maurer: That is correct.

3 Senator Hirono: So, I want to join my colleagues and  
4 focusing all of you to get to the point where their housing  
5 needs are being met. And thank you for also talking about  
6 the child care needs that our people have.

7 I want to get to the issue of the lease of training  
8 lands in Hawaii, and the major one there is Pohakuloa. And  
9 General LaNeve, a year ago at this hearing, your predecessor  
10 committed to me that the Army would engage in good faith  
11 with the State and the community, very important, and the  
12 community as a military works to renegotiate service  
13 training land leases in Hawaii that are set to expire in  
14 2029. And time goes by really fast.

15 Unfortunately, in the interim, Secretary Driscoll has  
16 indicated that he may just use seize the land via  
17 condemnation. I think that will be perceived by the people  
18 of Hawaii as not negotiating in good faith. So, I'll ask  
19 you the same question that I asked your predecessor, General  
20 Laneve. I ask for your commitment that the Army will engage  
21 in good faith with the State and the community on the issue  
22 of the extension of training leases in Hawaii.

23 General LaNeve: Ma'am, yes. Yes, we will.

24 Senator Hirono: This is very critical, and I think  
25 that we need to make clear to the community that -- I know



1 you have a person in Hawaii that's specifically focused on  
2 these negotiations, and I think that the community needs to  
3 know that the first step is not to start talking about  
4 condemning the land. And so, that is just -- I would want  
5 these negotiations to proceed. Please understand that,  
6 this, training area is very critical to the Army's presence  
7 in Hawaii. You understand that?

8 General LaNeve: Yes, ma'am.

9 Senator Hirono: Okay. And I know, as for the other  
10 services at some point, the Air Force, the Navy, you also  
11 have some leases that you're negotiating. And again, I  
12 think it is very important to let the community know that  
13 you are going to be listening to the community and have  
14 their voices heard as you go about your negotiations, which  
15 may be not as large as the negotiation or complicated, I  
16 should say, as negotiations over Pohakuloa.

17 I want to get to women in combat. Over 10 years ago,  
18 the services put significant effort into establishing and  
19 validating physical standards for combat occupational  
20 specialties, and the DOD has now called for a review of the  
21 effectiveness of women in combat roles. And this is  
22 extremely offensive, not to say questionable. And to me,  
23 likely, it reflects an effort by the Secretary of Defense to  
24 lay the groundwork to reverse the policy allowing women to  
25 serve in combat area positions, combat arms positions.

1 I hope I'm wrong in this, but, well, it undermines the  
2 sacrifices of thousands of female service members like  
3 Senator Duckworth, who have already met the rigorous,  
4 gender-neutral standards and have served in combat with  
5 distinction.

6 For all of the witnesses, and I'm going to go from my  
7 left to my right, for all of the witnesses, do you believe  
8 the mere fact of women being in the combat arms units lowers  
9 standards or readiness? General?

10 General LaNeve: Ma'am, thanks for the question.

11 Senator Hirono: Yes or no?

12 General LaNeve: Combat doesn't distinguish between  
13 MOS. What I will tell you, my daughter is a combat  
14 engineer. I've served in the 82nd Airborne Division. I  
15 commanded the division. I had a lot of women in that  
16 formation. We had the highest standards. For a division in  
17 the Army, objective, standards that are met by both men and  
18 women, I think, is what we're looking for people to serve in  
19 combat MOS. Thank you.

20 Senator Hirono: The answer is therefore? Yes --

21 General LaNeve: Yes, ma'am.

22 Senator Hirono: -- no? Okay. I'm sorry. You know,  
23 I'll repeat the question. I appreciate your testimony, by  
24 the way. Do you believe the mere fact of women being in  
25 these combat arms units lower standards or readiness?



1           General LaNeve: Not if the standards are high,  
2 standards that everybody meets?

3           Senator Hirono: The answer is no?

4           General LaNeve: The answer is no.

5           Senator Hirono: Thank you. Let's be clear.

6           General Gering: Senator, being in the unit, you need  
7 to make the standard. So, if they make the standard and  
8 they're in the unit, then then it doesn't impact readiness.

9           Senator Hirono: General Gering?

10          General Gering: Senator, to answer your question, if  
11 you meet -- you have to meet the standards to be in that  
12 unit. And if you meet the standard and all members in that  
13 unit meet that standard, then it does not detract from  
14 readiness.

15          General Lamontagne: Ranking Member Hirono, same in the  
16 Air Force. You meet the standards. It does not degrade  
17 readiness.

18          General Bratton: Same for the Space Force, ma'am.

19          Senator Hirono: Next question. Do you agree that  
20 every service member, regardless of gender, should be  
21 permitted to serve in any role, including in the combat  
22 arms, if they meet the established standards? Let's make it  
23 very clear what your positions are, please.

24          General LaNeve: Yes, ma'am, if you meet the standards.

25          General Gering: Yes.



1 General Lamontagne: Yes.

2 General Bratton: Yes, ma'am.

3 Senator Hirono: Over the last decade, since combat  
4 arms have been open to women, have you seen any instance  
5 where the standard your service established resulted in a  
6 degradation of combat effectiveness? Once again, let's go  
7 down the line.

8 General LaNeve: No, ma'am.

9 Admiral Kilby: No.

10 General Gering: No.

11 General Lamontagne: No, Senator.

12 General Bratton: No.

13 Senator Hirono: One more question -- two more. During  
14 the first Trump administration, it took units from the Army  
15 101st Airborne Division a year to regain their readiness  
16 after being deployed to the southwest border. If none of  
17 you are seeing any adverse readiness impacts from deploying  
18 to the southwest border, at what point -- because we have  
19 been told that readiness was not compromised -- but at what  
20 point does that change if units are only spending 1 day a  
21 week on Corps warfighting tasks and missing out entirely on  
22 large scale combat exercises and collective maneuver  
23 training?

24 General LaNeve: Ma'am, thanks for the question. So,  
25 when we assign a unit to that task, we pick a very high



1 readiness unit 101st, 10th mountain, just like we would if  
2 we're sent into a different combatant commander. As we  
3 receive those units back, we'll put them back into the  
4 training base. What we are seeing on the border, though, we  
5 are seeing platoons that are able to go through their  
6 platoon rehearsals, planning for their patrols. We are  
7 seeing staffs exercising at their staff functions. We're  
8 getting utilization counter-UAS equipment on the border.  
9 So, we are building readiness there in some of the  
10 formations.

11 But just like going anywhere else, any other combatant  
12 command, as they come back, we rebuild that readiness for  
13 utilization someplace else, and we pick a high readiness,  
14 unit to backfill them. Thank you.

15 Senator Hirono: That was -- this was a question  
16 particularly for you, General LaNeve. Thank you. And then  
17 for General Gering.

18 General Gering: Thanks, Ranking Member. I was  
19 actually out on the border 2 weeks ago to visit our Marines  
20 there. And what I observed was engineering taking place,  
21 intelligence, surveillance, monitoring. And what was most  
22 impressive is a lot of small unit leadership, a lot of touch  
23 time with young officers, with their formations, and also  
24 working distributed operations and logistics to support  
25 their units. So, they're actually seeing some readiness



1 there that is actually hard to emulate elsewhere.

2 With that said, if they have the opportunity to  
3 continue sustainment training, then they do that and the  
4 elements that are in San Diego actually are leveraging our  
5 local ranges there and keeping up some of those skills that  
6 they're not necessarily employing on the border. Where  
7 they're unable to do so, much like General Laneve said, then  
8 that is when we will regenerate the force when they come  
9 back, and that is no different than any, global force  
10 management allocation that we do with the force.

11 Senator Hirono: The thing is that since our number one  
12 priority, national defense, is defense of the homeland, we  
13 can expect that there will be continuing deployments of  
14 troops to the southwest border, and that means the Army and  
15 the Navy. So, you can expect that at some point, the issue  
16 arises as to the readiness of the personnel who are being  
17 deployed to those missions. So, I have a continuing concern  
18 about the use of the military for those border purposes. I  
19 have a few questions --

20 Ms. Maurer: Senator, I --

21 Senator Hirono: -- along those lines -- excuse me --

22 Ms. Maurer: Senator, I think, as you probably know, we  
23 have an ongoing review with GAO looking at the potential  
24 readiness implications of military deployments on the  
25 southwest border. That team is mid-stream on its work, and

1 we're keeping your staff fully informed on what we're  
2 learning. And we look forward to having our independent,  
3 nonpartisan oversight of that published later on this year.

4 Senator Hirono: Thank you. Because, as I said, we --  
5 you know, at the same time, I do have a concern about the  
6 experience with large scale operations, etc., because we  
7 still have to contend with China and Russia on the INDOPACOM  
8 AOR. So, that is a concern. For General LaNeve, how many  
9 migrants are currently being held at -- on Fort Bliss in  
10 Texas?

11 General LaNeve: Ma'am, I don't know that number. That  
12 facility's been handed over to DHS. While it's on an Army  
13 installation, we don't have any, you know, ties into that  
14 facility.

15 Senator Hirono: Apparently, you have a lot of land  
16 there, and the DHS has a need for a lot more facilities to  
17 house the thousands of migrants that they intend to arrest.  
18 Are there any oversight mechanisms in place for this  
19 facility or accountability measures from the Army, given  
20 this facility is on Fort Bliss?

21 General LaNeve: No, ma'am. It's been handed that  
22 facility has been handed over to DHS. They have their own  
23 access into the facility. That's not, you know, tied to our  
24 installation down there.

25 Senator Hirono: Currently, there is a measles outbreak



1 that has forced the migrant detention center and Fort Bliss  
2 to quarantine. So, General, I mean, when was the last time  
3 a measles outbreak forced facilities to close on an Army  
4 installation.

5 General LaNeve: And, ma'am, I'm not sure when the last  
6 time a measles outbreak closed, but, ma'am, the medical side  
7 of that is being handled through DHS and the local  
8 community. It's not being done by the Army.

9 Senator Hirono: How many cases of tuberculosis are  
10 there at the East Montana facility on Fort Bliss?

11 General LaNeve: Ma'am, I don't have that number.

12 Senator Hirono: What protocols and information is the  
13 Army giving the soldiers and families on Fort Bliss to  
14 ensure that they are protected?

15 General LaNeve: Again, ma'am, that the two facilities  
16 are completely separate.

17 Senator Hirono: So, there's no interaction --

18 General LaNeve: No, ma'am.

19 Senator Hirono: -- among these populations.

20 General LaNeve: That's correct, ma'am.

21 Senator Hirono: Okay. As the Margaret Detention  
22 Center at Camp East, Montana, which is not really in  
23 Montana, it's in Fort Bliss, continues to grow, what are the  
24 Army's roles and responsibilities? What happens there given  
25 that this facility resides on Fort Bliss?



1           General LaNeve:  Again, ma'am, the facility's been  
2 handed over to DHS.  They have control of the facilities.  
3 They have the protocols.  They have that.

4           Senator Hirono:  I think that what I'm expressing are  
5 some concerns that I have for the fact that you have a DHS  
6 facility there with potentially thousands of migrants, and  
7 there are various outbreaks, health outbreaks.  I just have  
8 one more question, Mr. Chairman.

9           Senator Sullivan:  Yes.  I'm giving you the 10 minutes.

10          Senator Hirono:  Thank you so much.  The East Montana  
11 Detention Facility was built for ICE through a Navy contract  
12 mechanism called WEXMAC, Worldwide Expedition Multiple Award  
13 Contract, a very special type of contract, so that ICE could  
14 construct a detention facility quickly and not follow the  
15 typical process.  Even Chairman Wicker has written DHS to  
16 oppose this particular ICE facility in Mississippi.

17          Admiral Kirby, prior to this year, no DOD agency has  
18 ever used this contract mechanism domestically for this  
19 purpose before.  Correct?

20          Admiral Kilby:  I believe that's correct, ma'am.

21          Senator Hirono:  But last month, the Navy increased the  
22 contract ceiling for WEXMAC up to \$65 billion for DHS.  
23 Correct?

24          Admiral Kilby:  I'll have to check the figure, but I'm  
25 not contesting it, ma'am.



1           Senator Hirono: Well, it's in that vicinity. And how  
2 many Navy personnel have worked with ICE to contract through  
3 WEXMAC to date?

4           Admiral Kilby: I will get you that figure, ma'am. I  
5 don't have it. I don't have the number of Navy personnel  
6 that --

7           Senator Hirono: When can you give me that? Because  
8 clearly, the Navy is enabling DHS to use a naval process to  
9 fast track these detention facilities, and I would like to  
10 know ASAP how many Navy personnel are already working in  
11 that regard.

12          Admiral Kilby: I will get you that number as soon as I  
13 can, ma'am.

14          [The information referred to follows:]

15          [SUBCOMMITTEE INSERT]

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25



1 Senator Hirono: Thank you.

2 Senator Sullivan: Thank you, Senator Hirono. I'm  
3 going to do a final round of questions here, and if my  
4 colleague wants to do another round, that would be great as  
5 well.

6 Just to commenting on the southwest border. There's  
7 nothing new here. Presidents all the time have deployed  
8 troops to the southwest border. I returned from my first  
9 deployment as a U.S. Marine many years ago to Camp  
10 Pendleton, and half my battalion was immediately sent to the  
11 southwest border under President Clinton. So, this is an  
12 ongoing issue that all Presidents have done.

13 I want to ask General LaMontagne on the issue of  
14 tankers. Where are we with regard to the KC-46 and the  
15 deployment there. And then just in the last couple of  
16 weeks, I've had a couple of good discussions with the  
17 Secretary of the Air Force and General Wilsbach about an  
18 ongoing issue that we've gotten commitments from on the Air  
19 Force for almost a decade now to get additional KC-135s to  
20 Eielson. As you know, we have a lot of activity up there,  
21 Red flag and the need for more tanker capacity in Alaska  
22 with our over 105th Gen fighters in my state is very  
23 obvious. But it's not just obvious for Alaska training,  
24 it's any surge force that would go to INDOPACOM. They're  
25 all going to be flying over Alaska. They're all going to

1 need to be tanked.

2 So, the big picture on KC-46, and then the commitment I  
3 got recently from the secretary and the chief of staff of  
4 the Air Force on finally getting those KC-135s up to  
5 Eielson. I'd like to get your view on that, both of them.

6 General Lamontagne: Chairman, thank you for the  
7 question. The tanker is a very important part of our Air  
8 Force. It helps us defend the homeland and project power,  
9 as you well know. The KC-46, we have a new contract that  
10 will come in place in a couple of years. So, right now,  
11 we've delivered more than 100 KC-46s on our way from 183 to  
12 188. It'll be the end of that initial contract.

13 We are working through a couple of issues with the  
14 contractor, and we're not going to get a new contract for  
15 another 75 KC-46 seconds until we work through some of those  
16 deficiencies. Confident that a good plan is in place that  
17 will deliver here next year, and then in subsequent years,  
18 we will sign -- we'll intend to pursue another 75 KC-46 to  
19 deliver to the fleet.

20 For the KC-135 obviously an important mission at  
21 Eielson. We are committed to delivering three additional  
22 KC-135. We delivered one of them a little while ago,  
23 probably in 2023, and our intent is to deliver those in the  
24 very near term. However, Chairman, that is complicated by  
25 the operations in the Middle East right now, but we will

1 absolutely get back to you and your staff to deliver the  
2 details on that timeline.

3 Senator Sullivan: Great. Let me ask another Air Force  
4 issue. You know, I know that the secretary -- I think this  
5 is up actually at the Secretary of War level, but on the B-  
6 21 and the purchase orders on the B-21, a lot of people, I  
7 think most people, would now look at, you know, in the 1990s  
8 when we dramatically curtailed our purchases of F-22s. It's  
9 such a great aircraft. And yet, we kind of lowball the  
10 number that we thought we needed. So, we cut back  
11 dramatically on what the Air Force was going to purchase on  
12 those. And I think a lot of people have buyer's remorse on  
13 that decision. But that was a long time ago.

14 But there's a similar option, I think, on the B-21 to  
15 look at, another kind of block order. Has that decision  
16 been made yet? Obviously, you have a good idea what I'm  
17 talking about. Are you tracking that one, and can you give  
18 me an update on that?

19 General Lamontagne: Chairman, absolutely. B-21, a  
20 very capable platform. We have delivered two so far. Right  
21 now, the intention is to deliver 100 B-21s. There's some  
22 analysis that's been done and will continue to be refined at  
23 STRATCOM and Air Force Global Strike Command to see exactly  
24 how many we will need. Tough to tell right now whether  
25 that's an additional five B-21s or an additional 150 B-21s.



1 Until we get through that analysis, not comfortable giving  
2 you an answer on exactly what that looks like today, but it  
3 may very well be north of 100.

4 Senator Sullivan: Great. The additional is what  
5 you're talking about or north of 100 is what you're  
6 purchasing in terms of the additional, you said anywhere  
7 between 5 and 100 that's still being looked at?

8 General Lamontagne: Those are just -- those are not  
9 from the study. It could be. I don't have great clarity on  
10 what that looks like. The current plan is to buy 100. Too  
11 early to tell how much further north we go, if we go further  
12 north.

13 Senator Sullivan: Okay. Good. General Bratton, I  
14 want to talk about the missile defense, Golden Dome. You  
15 know, Alaska's a cornerstone of missile defense for the  
16 country right now with all the ground-based missile  
17 interceptors at Fort Greely, which the Army does a great job  
18 at and the LRDR site at the Clear Space Force location, the  
19 other Aleutian Island chain radar systems.

20 Obviously, with the Golden Dome, we're going to be  
21 dramatically advancing our missile defense capabilities, not  
22 just in Alaska, but space interceptors. I know, General.  
23 Goodwin is very focused on this. But how do you think  
24 that's going? What are the areas that we need to focus on  
25 as we are starting to implement? You know, in the budget



1 reconciliation bill last year, we got about a \$25 billion  
2 down payment on this. We legislated a lot. Senator Cramer  
3 and I had the Golden Dome Act, which pretty much all of that  
4 was put in the NDAA. So, there's legislation, there's  
5 Presidential leadership, there's money. How are we doing on  
6 that, and what areas are you concerned about?

7 General Bratton: Sir, thanks for the question. I'll  
8 start with talking about Clear and Cobra Dane, the radars  
9 that are absolutely critical for missile warning for the  
10 Nation.

11 Senator Sullivan: By the way, great job on standing up  
12 the Clear LRDR site. I think it was on time, under budget.  
13 And that was a complicated radar system. That's one of the  
14 most sophisticated in the world, as you know.

15 General Bratton: Yes, sir, absolutely. And those  
16 radars, you know, combined with the Northern Tier radars,  
17 really are the cornerstone of homeland defense and our  
18 missile warning architecture that we're taking care of every  
19 day. And we've seen investment in Clear, both in the radar,  
20 the brand-new dorm that's just about to open up in May.  
21 Guardians will start moving into the new dorm. So, thanks  
22 for your support for the station up there. So, we continue  
23 that missile warning mission and that absolutely contributes  
24 to Golden Dome.

25 I'll leave the specifics on Golden Dome to General



1 Guetlein and the team, but I can assure you we are closely  
2 tied to them, you know, helping with launch operations out  
3 of Kodiak. About \$22.5 million that went to Kodiak to help  
4 with infrastructure there that will end up supporting Golden  
5 Dome. And then we'll keep track of the radars for General  
6 Guetlein and the team delivering that capability. Anything  
7 else on Golden Dome, I'd probably defer over to the GDA  
8 team.

9 Senator Sullivan: Good. Great. Thank you. Let me go  
10 again through each of the service vice chiefs here very  
11 quickly. The issue of munitions, and the industrial base,  
12 and our deficiencies. And the Secretary of War has made  
13 this a top priority of his. We talked about it again in  
14 this classified briefing yesterday.

15 But what I want to get from each services is, what you  
16 see as kind of the biggest industrial base challenges for  
17 your service, and how do we get on that more quickly? And  
18 it could be a weapons system. It could be a broad  
19 challenge. You know, there's been a lot of discussion on  
20 munitions, and I mentioned it in my opening statement. Are  
21 there any munition issues as well that relate to industrial  
22 base, matters that you want to highlight for this committee  
23 as again, we look at building out this year's NDAA? We'll  
24 start with you, General LaNeve.

25 General LaNeve: Sure. Thanks for the question. So,



1 we're tied in very, very closely with the deputy secretary  
2 of war, you know, big focus on munitions writ large in our  
3 organic industrial base. We have 23 facilities that really  
4 were set up for World War II kind of era facilities where we  
5 were working very hard to, you know, really fix our  
6 industrial base. It's really been neglected for a long  
7 time.

8 So, it's investing in the people that are working  
9 there. You know, working to get them, you know, knowledge  
10 and technology. It's bringing in partnerships with industry  
11 into the industrial base to help us modernize these  
12 facilities. It's bringing in advanced manufacturing. So,  
13 we can get after right to repair and get after, you know,  
14 producing the items that we need. Not only for the future  
15 force, which is going to be a technologically advanced  
16 force, but we also have to maintain the equipment where, you  
17 know, we have issues with the supply chain. We know that we  
18 can do that.

19 At our Organic Industrial Base, it's a full court  
20 press. It affects every piece of our readiness for our  
21 Army. And it's a huge focus for the secretary and chief  
22 that will have an impact for generations as we transform the  
23 force. But thank you for the question, sir.

24 Senator Sullivan: Good. Admiral, I know you're  
25 focused a lot on industrial base issues. Are there any



1 really big ones that you want us to focus on that the Navy  
2 needs to work on and overcome?

3 Admiral Kilby: First off, I'd agree with everything  
4 General LaNeve said. The deputy secretary of war has kind  
5 of led the charge on here. We're all marching behind him,  
6 supporting from a service perspective. I think it's, you  
7 know, not an either or. It's traditional vendors increasing  
8 capacity. So, there's a long-term contract perspective  
9 there to get them to commit to the facilitation in order to  
10 do that. I think there's a non-traditional vendor opening  
11 that we should be pursuing that includes supply base as  
12 well.

13 I also think non-traditional vendors could build parts  
14 of munitions as long as we had the spec, right, like rocket  
15 motors, so we don't have to get the whole munition. But  
16 where we're challenged with rocket motors and seekers, we  
17 could seek other avenues to have vendors help with that and  
18 just add to that capacity. So, there's work there to do.

19 Senator Sullivan: Great. General?

20 General Gering: Thanks, Chairman. I certainly agree  
21 with General LaNeve and Admiral Kilby regarding munitions,  
22 and we're 100 percent aligned with where the deputy  
23 secretary of war is going on this. I think other industrial  
24 base items, as we look at our aviation portfolio, this gets  
25 at the ability to produce spares and/or platforms. The two



1 that we're currently fielding right now in the Marine Corps  
2 are the F-35 and the CH-53K, so it's a matter of meeting  
3 production in the case of the CH-53K as a function of  
4 schedule, but then also the industry's ability to produce  
5 spares in a timely fashion, as we feel those capabilities to  
6 the Marine Corps.

7 Senator Sullivan: Great. General, do you have any  
8 views on the industrial base that are really the big issues  
9 the Air Force needs to address?

10 General Lamontagne: Chairman, I agree with the  
11 comments, and without repeating those, I'll add a couple of  
12 more. Stable and predictable funding I think will go a long  
13 way. Multiyear contracts would be very helpful as well.  
14 That will help the Defense Industrial Base invest in their  
15 facilities to help ramp up production at scale and in a  
16 hurry.

17 Senator Sullivan: Good. General?

18 General Bratton: Sir, similar comments, and I'd add  
19 for the Space Force that, you know, this idea of growing the  
20 force, we need to both acquire those systems and then  
21 operate it, making sure our training infrastructure can  
22 onboard those Guardians who need to be working in the  
23 program offices to bring all this new mission, all this new  
24 equipment into the service, and then work it through the  
25 test and training infrastructure so we're fielding fully



1 capable systems with Guardians that are trained to operate  
2 it.

3 Senator Sullivan: Great. Let me wrap it up here. Ms.  
4 Maurer, you do a great job of looking at some of the  
5 deficiencies. A lot of times in your reports, and I'm sure  
6 the services have this as a challenge, you lay out a very  
7 well thought out and insightful list of reforms and  
8 prioritization. As you know, sometimes that gets squeezed  
9 out by what the budget is.

10 A number of us have been encouraging the President, the  
11 secretary of war to help address a lot of these readiness  
12 issues, maintenance issues, munitions issues, industrial  
13 base issues that are very significant to put forward a top  
14 line that reflects the challenges and the danger that the  
15 current international system presents to America and our  
16 citizens. And the President and the secretary have done  
17 that with this announcement. And I know that they're  
18 working on the details of a \$1.5 trillion top line.

19 Is that the kind of number that can, if utilized well,  
20 can help clear your to do list from GAO on all the things  
21 that we have discussed today and need to focus on in terms  
22 of readiness?

23 Ms. Maurer: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for that  
24 question. I think from the GAO perspective, it's how the  
25 money is used is arguably even more important than the



1 amount of the money.

2 Senator Sullivan: It's really both, though, right?

3 Ms. Maurer: Clearly both. Like, we've seen many  
4 instances where it's a lack of resources. And, obviously,  
5 from a GAO perspective, we're not going to take a position  
6 on what the top line should be --

7 Senator Sullivan: I know. I tried, but.

8 Ms. Maurer: I know, I know. But I got to make sure my  
9 bosses back home are okay with that. But essentially it  
10 comes down to the tradeoffs, right? And so, there's a lot  
11 of emphasis or we've seen in the past rather an overemphasis  
12 arguably on developing new technology.

13 But new technology does not become new capability for  
14 the warfighter unless it's a yes, and. And that yes, and,  
15 includes you need to have plans, you need to have personnel,  
16 you need to have facilities to make sure that when it gets  
17 in the hands of the warfighter, they know how to use it.  
18 They know how to maintain it, they know how to move it. And  
19 more importantly, the service knows how to upgrade it. And  
20 there have been real deficiencies in that in the past. And  
21 if additional resources can help address those problems in  
22 the future, and we have fewer readiness and sustainment  
23 challenges down the road, all the better.

24 Senator Sullivan: Great. Well, I want to thank the  
25 witnesses. I want to thank you again for your service.



1 Admiral Kilby, I do want to acknowledge what you mentioned  
2 earlier today about some of the great work the Navy is  
3 doing. All the services are doing great work. I certainly  
4 have a lot of my young Alaskan constituents in the region on  
5 ships like the Abraham Lincoln and others, and I want to  
6 thank all of our services and our leadership here, but the  
7 men and women that you're leading for their service during  
8 these challenging times, but very important times.

9 I'll give you an example that I think it's changing in  
10 a dramatic way, particularly as it relates to the Iranian  
11 Navy. A lot of you might remember, I'm sure you remember  
12 that, you know, just a couple of years ago, the Houthis were  
13 targeting Navy ships. The USS Kearny, I think, shot down or  
14 avoided over 100 missiles and drones launched by the  
15 Houthis. The Iranians were nearby on spy ships, providing  
16 targeting information to the Houthis for American warships  
17 to kill American Sailors and Marines.

18 That was a fact that was testified here in public, and  
19 the previous administration wouldn't do anything. I asked  
20 in hearings like this to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of  
21 Staff, why the Iranian Navy is providing intel to the  
22 Houthis to take out American Sailors and Marines right now.  
23 How come the Iranian Navy is not at the bottom of the ocean?  
24 They should be for deterrence. You can't target Americans  
25 to kill them and think you can get away with it.



1           Well guess what? A lot of the Iranian Navy is at the  
2 bottom of the ocean right now. And that's deterrence  
3 because they've been using that to try to kill Americans,  
4 and now we're reestablishing deterrence with our military  
5 forces here. But I particularly want to commend the Navy  
6 for some of the actions that you highlighted in your  
7 testimony. I want to commend all our vice chiefs here for  
8 your decades of service to our country and your families as  
9 well.

10           We are now, adjourning the hearing, but we will keep  
11 the record open for the next 14 days for questions for the  
12 record from other Senators on this committee, and we would  
13 respectfully ask all the witnesses to respond to those QFRs  
14 within a week after their receipt.

15           [The information referred to follows:]

16           [SUBCOMMITTEE INSERT]

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25



1           Senator Sullivan: Thank you, again, for our witnesses,  
2 for your service. This hearing is adjourned.

3           [Whereupon, at 4:24 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

